

WHAT IS CLAIMED AS NEW AND DESIRED TO BE PROTECTED BY LETTERS  
PATENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, IS:

1. An articulated band, comprising:

    a plurality of magnetic components;

    first and second opposite magnetic poles defined  
    within opposite ends of each one of said plurality of magnet-

5    ic components so as to permit any one of said plurality of  
    magnetic components to be magnetically attracted toward and  
    operatively connected to another one of said plurality of  
    magnetic components when a first one of said opposite magnet-  
10    ic poles of said any one of said plurality of magnetic com-  
    ponents is operatively engaged with a second one of said op-  
    posite magnetic poles of said another one of said plurality  
    of magnetic components; and

    surface contour means defined upon each one of said  
    plurality of magnetic components for permitting universal  
15    movement of each one of said plurality of magnetic components  
    with respect to an adjacent one of said plurality of magnetic  
    components operatively connected to said each one of said  
    plurality of magnetic components.

20

2. The articulated band as set forth in Claim 1, wherein:

    each one of said plurality of magnetic components

    has a spherical configuration such that said surface contour

25    means defines point-to-point contact loci when each one of  
    said plurality of magnetic components is magnetically at-  
    tracted and connected to an adjacent one of said plurality of

magnetic components.

5 3. The articulated band as set forth in Claim 1, wherein:  
said articulated band comprises a continuous, uninterrupted, endless loop.

10

4. The articulated band as set forth in Claim 3,  
said endless loop comprises a jewelry item selected  
from the group comprising a necklace, a bracelet, a ring, and  
an earring.

15

5. The articulated band as set forth in Claim 2, wherein:  
each one of said plurality of magnetic components  
20 has the same diametrical extent.

6. The articulated band as set forth in Claim 2, wherein:

25 said plurality of magnetic components comprise two  
sets of magnetic components;

wherein each one of said magnetic components, comprising a first set of said two sets of magnetic components,  
has a first predetermined diametrical extent; and

30 wherein further, each one of said magnetic components, comprising a second set of said two sets of magnetic

components, has a second predetermined diametrical extent which is less than said first diametrical extent characteristic of each one of said magnetic components comprising said first set of said two sets of magnetic components.

5

7. The articulated band as set forth in Claim 6, wherein:

10 said magnetic components comprising said first set of said two sets of magnetic components and said magnetic components comprising said second set of said two sets of magnetic components are magnetically connected together in an alternative array such that each one of said magnetic components comprising said first set of said two sets of magnetic components is interposed between a pair of said magnetic components comprising said second set of said two sets of magnetic components, and concomitantly, each one of said magnetic components comprising said second set of said two sets of magnetic components is interposed between a pair of said magnetic components comprising said first set of said two sets of magnetic components.

15

20

25 8. The articulated band as set forth in Claim 2, further comprising:

a plurality of ferromagnetic components magnetically attracted and attached to said plurality of spherically configured magnetic components.

30

9. The articulated band as set forth in Claim 8, wherein:

    said plurality of ferromagnetic components are disposed within a plurality of annular arrays defined around each one of said point-to-point contact loci defined between adjacent ones of said plurality of magnetic components magnetically connected together at said point-to-point contact loci.

10

10. The articulated band as set forth in Claim 9, wherein:

    each one of said plurality of magnetic components has a predetermined diametrical extent; and

    each one of said plurality of annular arrays of ferromagnetic components has a predetermined diametrical extent which is substantially the same as said predetermined diametrical extent of each one of said plurality of magnetic components.

20

11. The articulated band as set forth in Claim 1, wherein:

    each one of said magnetic components has a coating disposed upon the respective external surface portions thereof which is selected from the group comprising protective and decorative coatings.

30 12. The articulated band as set forth in Claim 11, wherein:  
    said coating is selected from the group comprising

gold, silver, platinum, copper, chromium, rhodium, plastics, nickel, and enamels.

5

13. The articulated band as set forth in Claim 8, wherein:

each one of said magnetic components, and each one of said ferromagnetic components, has a coating disposed upon the respective external surface portions thereof which is selected from the group comprising protective and decorative coatings.

10

15 14. The articulated band as set forth in Claim 13, wherein:

said coating is selected from the group comprising gold, silver, platinum, copper, chromium, rhodium, plastics, nickel, and enamels.

20

15. The articulated band as set forth in Claim 1, wherein:

a plurality of ferromagnetic components are interposed between said plurality of magnetic components whereby 25 said plurality of magnetic components are operatively connected to each other through means of said plurality of ferromagnetic components.

30

16. The articulated band as set forth in Claim 15, wherein:

each one of said magnetic components has a spherical configuration; and

each one of said ferromagnetic components has a spherical configuration with an annular recess portion defined within an axially central peripheral surface region thereof for accommodating said magnetic components having said spherical configurations.

10

17. The articulated band as set forth in Claim 16, wherein:  
said annular recess portion, formed within each one  
of said ferromagnetic components, has arcuate contours in  
both X and Y directions so as to establish surface-to-surface  
contact regions with adjacent ones of said magnetic components.

20 18. The articulated band as set forth in Claim 17, wherein:  
said magnetic components and said ferromagnetic  
components are magnetically connected together in an alterna-  
tive array such that each one of said magnetic components is  
interposed between a pair of said ferromagnetic components,  
25 and concomitantly, each one of said ferromagnetic components  
is interposed between a pair of said magnetic components.

30 19. The articulated band as set forth in Claim 15, wherein:  
each one of said magnetic components, and each one

of said ferromagnetic components, has a coating disposed upon the respective external surface portions thereof which is selected from the group comprising protective and decorative coatings.

5

20. The articulated band as set forth in Claim 19, wherein:  
said coating is selected from the group comprising  
10 gold, silver, platinum, copper, chromium, rhodium, plastics,  
nickel, and enamels.

15

20

25

30